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PRESS RELEASE

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Group home care giver found guilty
of assault of a vulnerable adult in April 2004

Washington, D.C. - United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today that on November 2, 2005, Milton Poole, 46, of Temple Hills, Maryland, was found guilty of assault, following a bench trial in D.C. Superior Court, of a vulnerable adult. Poole was a care giver in a group home for mentally retarded adults in Northeast Washington, D.C.

According to trial testimony, on April 21, 2004, Poole pushed one of the vulnerable adults in his care to the ground, slapping his face and "kneeing" him in the back to restrain him. After trial, at which the victim of the assault testified, the Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin found Poole guilty of the assault. Poole will be sentenced in November 16, 2005. He faces up to 180 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

The OIG Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) investigated the assault. The MFCU, which was created in March 2000, handled this case as part of an effort called the Guardian Angel Project (GAP). GAP is a comprehensive program designed to deter and when appropriate, punish health care providers who intentionally abuse or neglect vulnerable persons under their care. Among the institutions covered by GAP are nursing homes, group homes for

adults who are mentally retarded and facilities for mentally ill persons.

In announcing the court's verdict, United States Attorney Wainstein and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Patient Abuse Coordinator Jonathan Rich of the MFCU, who investigated the case. Mr. Wainstein and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant United States Attorney Sam Ramer and Dangkhua Nguyen of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case, as well as paralegal specialist Lynda Randolph and legal assistant Janelle Taylor, who assisted in preparation of the case for trial.

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